



The Coal
Authority



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RTPI
Learning Partner

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For the Attention of: Ms R Owens
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

[By Email: planning@merthyr.gov.uk]

12 September 2023

Dear Ms Owens

PLANNING APPLICATION: P/23/0200

**Construction of footpaths within existing public open space; West Of Glasier Road,
And To The South Of Taff Glen View, And Primrose Hill, Twynyrodyn**

Thank you for your consultation letter of 31 August 2023 seeking the views of The Coal Authority on the above planning application.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). As a statutory consultee, The Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.

The Coal Authority Response: Material Consideration

I have reviewed the site location plans and the proposals and supporting information submitted and available to view on the LPA website and can confirm that the site falls within the defined Development High Risk Area.

The Coal Authority records indicate that a thick coal seam outcrops at or close to the surface of the site which may have been worked in the past and historic unrecorded underground coal mining is likely to have taken place beneath the site at shallow depth. Voids and broken ground associated with such workings can pose a risk of ground instability and may give rise to the emission of mine gases. The site also lies within a Surface Coal Resource Zone.

As you will be aware, the Coal Authority's general approach in cases where development is proposed within the Development High Risk Area is to recommend that the applicant

obtains coal mining information for the application site and submits a Coal Mining Risk Assessment to support the planning application.

However, when considering the nature of this particular development proposal, it does not appear as though substantial foundations or earthworks are required. On this basis we do not consider that requiring a Coal Mining Risk Assessment would be proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed in this particular case and **do not object** to this planning application.

Notwithstanding the above, the Coal Authority does recommend that, should planning permission be granted for this proposal, the following wording is included as an Informative Note on any planning permission granted:

Informative Note

The proposed development lies within an area that has been defined by the Coal Authority as containing coal mining features at surface or shallow depth. These features may include: mine entries (shafts and adits); shallow coal workings; geological features (fissures and break lines); mine gas and former surface mining sites. Although such features are seldom readily visible, they can often be present and problems can occur, particularly as a result of new development taking place.

Any intrusive activities which disturb or enter any coal seams, coal mine workings or coal mine entries (shafts and adits) requires a Coal Authority Permit. Such activities could include site investigation boreholes, excavations for foundations, piling activities, other ground works and any subsequent treatment of coal mine workings and coal mine entries for ground stability purposes. Failure to obtain permission to enter or disturb our property will result in the potential for court action.

Shallow coal seams:

In areas where shallow coal seams are present caution should be taken when carrying out any on site burning or heat focused activities. To check your site for coal mining features on or near to the surface the [Coal Authority interactive map viewer](#) allows you to view selected coal mining information in your browser graphically. To check a particular location either enter a post code or use your mouse to zoom in to view the surrounding area.

If any coal mining features are unexpectedly encountered during development, this should be reported immediately to the Coal Authority on 0345 762 6848. Further information is available on the Coal Authority website at: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-coal-authority

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

Ashley Langrick

Ashley Langrick BA (HONS) Dip TRP MRTPI
Planning and Development Manager (Corporate Projects)

Disclaimer

The above consultation response is provided by the Coal Authority as a Statutory Consultee and is based upon the latest available coal mining data on the date of the response, and electronic consultation records held by the Coal Authority since 1 April 2013. The comments made are also based upon only the information provided to the Coal Authority by the Local Planning Authority and/or has been published on the Council's website for consultation purposes in relation to this specific planning application. The views and conclusions contained in this response may be subject to review and amendment by the Coal Authority if additional or new data/information (such as a revised Coal Mining Risk Assessment) is provided by the Local Planning Authority or the applicant for consultation purposes.